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WKU Student Affairs

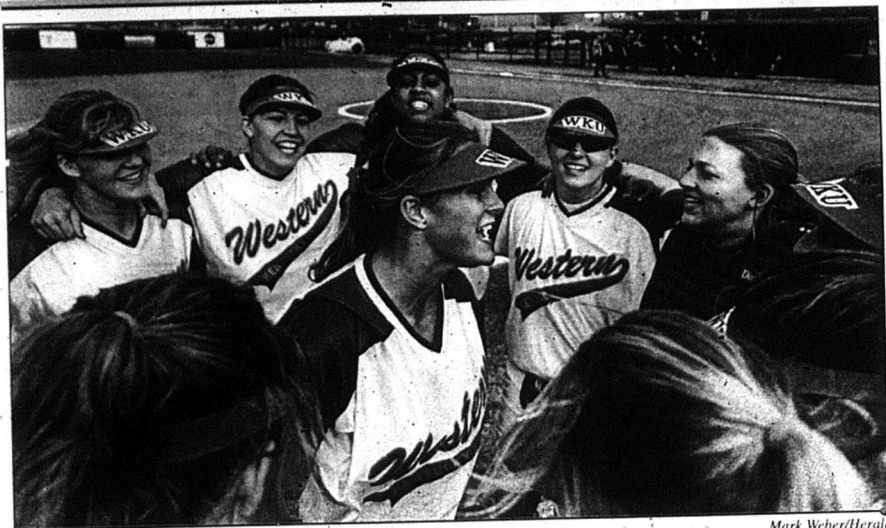
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Mark Weber/Herald

Freshman outfielder Jessie Richardson leads a pregame huddle before the softball team's debut on the Hill. During the doubleheader yesterday, the Lady Toppers lost 2-0 and finished game two tied at 2.

## First Ladies

A new team is born on the Hill

By LYNDSEY SUTTON  
Herald reporter

Yesterday could have been a page ripped out of a romance novel. It was so perfect. Crystal blue sky. Clouds few and far between. Sixty degrees in February, no less. And just enough sunlight to reveal the two-year-olds running from parents, the mesmerized 10-year-olds wishing they weren't sitting in the stands and the 30-year-olds keeping an eye on their children, yet not missing a minute of the history.

Perfection batted its eyes while Western's first official softball team practiced batting and warmed up for its first real game.

Perfection blushed as university administrators, the softball coaches and various members of the community, 14 people total, each threw out the much-heralded first pitch.

Perfection beamed when freshman infielder Brandi Hawkins worked the nervousness and excitement out of her bloodstream and into the microphone that broadcast her version of the national anthem across the Lady Toppers' new softball field.

Perfection danced with the wind-blown dust throughout Western's doubleheader with Evansville while sixth-grader Brittany York chased green softballs across Creason Street and dreamed of the day in the future when somebody will follow her foul balls hit into the surrounding areas.

Perfection — Brittany's mother, Debbie York, might say — has finally arrived in Bowling Green. For all perfection is, really,

### More softball coverage

- ♦ The Lady Toppers may be youthful, they may make mistakes, they may lose, but they don't quit, as was evidence on opening day. **Page 11**
- ♦ See the historical event through the eyes of the Herald's photo staff. **Page 13**

is a clear sky hovering above a fast-pitch softball game.

"We're real excited," said Debbie, who is also president of the Warren County Parks fast-pitch league. "We've been waiting a long time for Western to get a softball team here. Bowling Green's about 10 years behind in fast pitch. We've always offered slow pitch with the parks and-rec here. Last three years, we've been playing fast pitch and this is what's got the community so excited about switching from slow pitch to fast pitch."

Debbie grew up playing slow pitch but is excited about the opportunity her daughter, Brittany, and other girls will have to advance to the collegiate level in their own hometown. Next year as a seventh-grader, Brittany will try out for the softball team at Greenwood, the same school that produced Lady Topper freshman Angie Head.

"There's no word to describe this," Debbie said. "We've always waited for this." Alan, Gina and Rachel Riley have been waiting for this day, too. Rachel, 10, is a teammate of Brittany's on the Diamonds team that advanced to nationals last summer.

"Rachel's been around softball about her



Andrew Otto/Herald

Freshman infielder Brandi Hawkins salutes the flag and sings the national anthem before the game.

whole life," mom Gina said. "We're hoping to see her out there someday."

For Doug Searle, dad of junior third baseman Shanon Searle, someday is now. He, his wife Julie, and Shanon's grandparents all flew in from San Diego, Calif., on Tuesday to watch her play her first Division I game with the Lady Toppers.

SEE FIRST, PAGE 13

## More money missing

Housing thefts now total \$3,000

By JASON RAGAN  
Herald reporter

Two more thefts were reported this week by Housing and Residence Life, bringing the sum of money stolen over a year's time to about \$3,000.

Area Coordinator Kim Collins was arrested Feb. 7 and charged with forgery of a \$30 check from Phi Mu sorority. As part of the police investigation, Housing and Residence Life went through its records and found more money missing.

Campus police Capt. Mike Wallace would not comment on whether the thefts were connected.

Brian Kuster, director of Housing and Residence Life, also would not comment on Collins, who will face the grand jury next week.

SEE MONEY, PAGE 6

## Academy still needs funding

Budget would support only one year

By JACOB BENNETT  
Herald reporter

In a few weeks, Western will know whether it will have enough money to launch its proposed Kentucky Academy of Mathematics and Science, a two-year program that would allow high school students to live at Western and earn college credit while earning their diplomas.

But as of right now, there is only enough money allotted in the governor's budget proposal to support the program for one year. Gov. Paul Patton recommended \$500,000 for the project, but his proposal has to pass through the House and then the Senate. A decision should be made by the end of March.

"We're hoping for more than that, but we think it's a start," said Julia Roberts, director of the Center for Gifted Students.

If it passes, and if funds can be secured to continue the program in the future, Western can start the planning phase of the project, which will include recruiting staff and students, according to Charles McGruder, physics and

SEE FUNDING, PAGE 3

### OTHER NEWS

#### SGA polishing evaluations

The Student Government Association is putting the finishing touches on its plan to have student evaluations posted online. SGA President Amanda Coates will pitch the idea to the executive committee of the Faculty Senate in two weeks to get feedback.

Page 5

#### 'Pippin': Behind the scenes

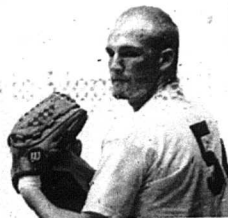
Much work went into making "Pippin," Bob Fosse's musical comedy, come to life on stage. Here is a behind-the-scenes look at the musical comedy, which opened Tuesday and can be seen at the fine arts center's Russell Miller Theatre through Sunday. Admission is \$7. For reservations and more information, call 745-5845.

Diversions, Page 7

#### Baseball loses to Cards, 6-4

The Western baseball team had its three-game winning streak ended yesterday after a 6-4 loss to Louisville at Cardinal Stadium. The Cards won their first game in five tries as senior Troy Hilpp ripped a two-run double to right-center field in the bottom of the seventh inning. Western senior outfielder Matt Fox, a Louisville native, was 1 for 3 for the Toppers.

Sports, Page 11



## Weather forecast

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
64° 56°	74° 53°	67° 45°	67° 42°	69° 46°
Mostly cloudy	Showers	Showers	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy

R: 6:58/5:51 showers  
F: 7:31/5:31 showers  
S: 6:58/5:51 showers  
M: 6:58/5:51 showers  
T: 6:58/5:51 showers

• Louisville  
R: 6:58/5:51 showers  
F: 7:31/5:31 showers  
S: 6:58/5:51 showers  
M: 6:58/5:51 showers  
T: 6:58/5:51 showers

• Owensboro  
R: 6:58/5:51 showers  
F: 7:31/5:31 showers  
S: 6:58/5:51 showers  
M: 6:58/5:51 showers  
T: 6:58/5:51 showers

• Paducah  
R: 6:58/5:51 showers  
F: 7:31/5:31 showers  
S: 6:58/5:51 showers  
M: 6:58/5:51 showers  
T: 6:58/5:51 showers

• Nashville  
R: 6:58/5:51 showers  
F: 7:31/5:31 showers  
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Medium 1-Topping  
Thin Crust Pizzas

**\$9.99**

Expires: 6-25-00

#132

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14" MEGA DEAL!!!  
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Any Number of Toppings

**\$10.99**

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#110/111

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1-Topping Pizza  
Coupon good any time.

**\$6.99**

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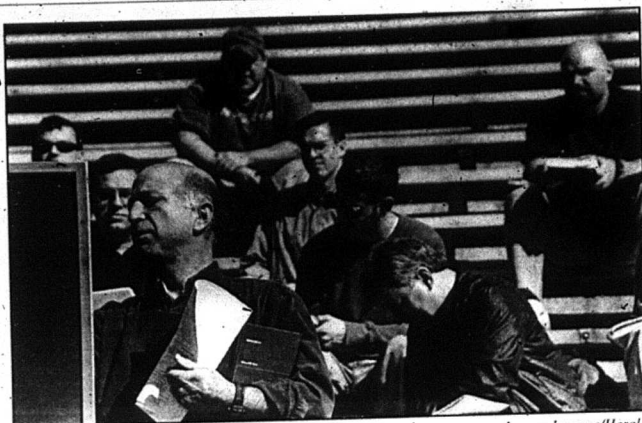
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Jeremy Lyverse/Herald

**Wind blown:** Kaveh Khatin teaches his applications of thermodynamics class outside on the steps of the colonnade, Wednesday afternoon, at the suggestion of his students. At one point the wind carried away a practice equation written on a piece of paper which was later tracked down by a student. "You have to put up with a little discomfort to gain the full advantage of the outdoors," Khatin said later.

## Crime Reports

## Arrests

• Brandi Shorhea Vaughn was arrested Tuesday for criminal possession of a forged document and reckless driving. She was released that same day from Warren County Regional Jail on a \$2,500 cash bond.

• Mark Daniel Uiterwyk, Pearce-Ford Tower, was arrested yesterday for DUI under the age of 21, disregarding a traffic control device and possession of alcohol by a minor. He was released the next day from the Warren County Regional Jail on

a \$500 unsecured bond.

## Reports

• Alisa Marie Loy, Bemis Lawrence Hall, reported Tuesday that her wallet was stolen from her car. Her wallet was found, and the only thing missing was a Visa card.

• Susan Zimmerman reported Feb. 3 the prize money of the Battle of the Bands contest, \$97, stolen from the Garret Conference Center ballroom.

• Susan Zimmerman reported Feb. 15 \$2,340 stolen when a check bounced from National

Association of College and University Resident Halls.

• Stephanie Lyn Dell, McCormack Hall, reported her purse stolen with her cell phone in it. The thefts were valued at \$140.

• Casey William Diercks, Morgantown Road, reported items worth \$100 stolen from the Preston Center.

• Michael Joe Loftis reported Monday items worth \$300 stolen from the Preston Center.

• Allison Lee Cochran, McCormack Hall, reported harassing communication on Monday.

## Campus News

## Dogwood Avenue closing

Dogwood Avenue will be closed to traffic beginning Monday.

The university is planning to have it reopened late next Friday. The closure is from the exit of the parking structure to University Boulevard.

Cars will be able to leave the structure but must take a right to Big Red Way.

The closure is a part of the construction done in order to upgrade Western's electrical system.

—Jason Ragan

## Library restrooms closed

The restrooms in Helm Library are out of order because of a sanitary line that collapsed in the process of being repaired. Chief Facilities Officer Bill Hopper said.

The sewer line is located under the upper parking lot behind Helm Library. Facilities is requesting all faculty, staff and students to use the restrooms in Cravens. Hopper said they hope to have the sewer line repaired within the next few days.

—Abbey Brown

## Graduation Fair starts next week

This year's Graduation Fair will start Monday and will be held through March 3 at Downing University Center.

Graduating students can get measured for their cap and gown, purchase class rings and get general information about May's graduation ceremony at the fair.

For more information, contact the Alumni Association at 745-4395.

—Mattias Karén

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**\$4.50 Pitchers & \$2.50 Wells**  
**All Night**

Wednesday and Thursday  
**Karaoke**  
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1354 Adams St.

# Review projects gearing up to satisfy CPE requirements

13 programs added to endangered list

By JIM GAINES  
Herald reporter

As the deadline approaches for state universities to decide which programs to cut and which to fight to save, Western's academic officers and others across Kentucky are gearing up review projects to satisfy the Council on Postsecondary Education.

When academic officers learned about the CPE's new program productivity guidelines at their meeting last August, "We just absolutely went through the ceiling," Provost Barbara Burch said.

The CPE's test of program productivity is based on average numbers of graduates compared to other states. Of 1,120 academic degrees offered in Kentucky, 532 are below the CPE's standard. Seventy-six of Western's 160 active programs are endangered, according to the CPE. Western's own estimate had been 63 programs.

"We're probably in a position comparable to other state universities," Burch said.

On May 8, state academic officers must present the CPE with a four-level plan for dealing with unproductive majors. Western and the seven other state universities must choose which programs can be cut, which they can collaborate to offer, which they will argue to keep despite their small size, and on which the CPE should suspend judgment until

they are reaccredited.

Western's decisions are being made through its established academic review process, Burch said, since there's no time to develop an alternative. She wants to have her report by May 1 so the Board of Regents can vote on it at its May 5 meeting.

At an open forum on the issue Monday, Burch said Western is better prepared to argue on behalf of its threatened programs than other state schools, which aren't taking the CPE mandate as seriously.

But CPE spokesman George Graves said all state universities have discussed their plans with the CPE, and academic officers held another regular meeting yesterday with Sue Moore, CPE vice president for academic affairs. Program changes and cuts should have been the top item on their agenda.

The University of Kentucky is also using its regular program reviews as a basis for meeting the new standards, said Ben Carr, UK vice president for administration.

UK reviews its programs every five years and sees the new standards as part of a continuous effort since the state's last major program review in 1993, Carr said.

"We're aware of it, and we're participating in that process," he said. "It all fits together in what we're already doing, so I guess

we're as prepared as anyone. We've been working on it probably since we heard about it in August."

The CPE assumes that if programs aren't graduating many students, money can be freed-up by cutting those majors, Burch said. But if numbers are low, there probably aren't many faculty or other resources involved anyway, she said. Also, the requirement that programs "teach out" graduating all currently enrolled students over the next five years, will prevent any immediate savings.

The motive behind the review is twofold, Burch said: increasing collaboration between state schools and

## If you go

◆ Provost Barbara Burch will hold another open forum on the CPE program review in Downing University Center, Room 228, from 10:15 to 11:45 Thursday morning. The discussion is open to all students, faculty and staff with questions about the plan or Western's response.

The CPE wants to cut down on competitive programs at state universities. That doesn't mean courses in cut programs wouldn't be offered at Western, just that students would have to go elsewhere to major in them, he said.

"Ultimately, what this is designed to do is provide better programs; more depth, more breadth, more variety."

# FUNDING: Western may seek outside money for academy project

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

astronomy department head

"The funds need to be secured first," he said. "How can you hire someone if they don't know if they'll be paid in the coming years? You just won't be able to attract anybody."

New teachers won't be needed since students will take mainstream college courses, but Roberts said staff will be needed to allow for normal high school activities like yearbooks and clubs.

Legislators seem to like the proposal, but George Graves, a spokesman for the Council on Postsecondary Education, said approval now hinges on whether the state has enough money to fund all the projects in the governor's budget.

"The idea seems to be a worthy one, if not a necessary one, if we want to prosper as a state," Graves said.

Once Western secures a continuous operating budget and staff and completes remodeling of Schneider Hall, where the students will live, 100 high school juniors could be recruited for the first year. The second year, a new class of 100 high school juniors would be recruited.

President Gary Ransdell didn't want to speculate on specifics of the project until the budget is final at the end of March, but he said the project would be hard to begin without funds to continue it beyond the first year.

"I'm hesitant to recruit a staff and a class of students without certainty of an operating budget," he said.

Western could look for alternative sources of funding if the project is not included in the state budget. The university could reallocate funds from other projects or seek funds from private individuals and organizations, Graves said.

"When it comes to math and science, there are perhaps many corporations and organizations that would smile on this type of program," he said, adding that many people are concerned that there aren't enough math and science majors.

One person who has given the academy a boost is William H. McCormack, a Western graduate who donated \$500,000 for a professorship in the hard sciences. McCruder said the job description includes spending 25 percent of the time as an academic advisor for the project.

## News of the Weird by Chuck Shepherd

in every Thursday edition of the  
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# Opinion

## Politicians put money before lives

Forces in Frankfort are again working to turn the state's universities into businesses.

First the Council on Postsecondary Education decided education was too expensive and ordered Western and other state schools to cut valuable programs.

Now some members of the General Assembly are telling students that universities can't be held accountable for negligence.

House Bill 322 would have removed legal protection for universities from lawsuits. It also would have required schools to post all crimes within 24 hours.

But the House Education Committee decided Feb. 16 that such safety elements were too expensive. Both provisions were stripped from the bill, effectively removing any reason for its existence.

The bill, called the Michael Minger Act, was named for the student killed in a 1998 dorm fire at Murray State University. It was intended to hold universities responsible for such actions as not installing sprinklers in dorms, which may have been a factor in Minger's death.

Opponents claim removing sovereign immunity protection would open universities up to outrageous civil suits.

It probably would. But try explaining that to Gail Minger, Michael's mother, that her son's life was just too costly to protect. State Rep. Harry Moberly Jr. (D-Richmond) said the 24-hour crime reporting stipulation would have placed too much of a burden on campus law enforcement, that reporting every trivial crime would take too long.

Tough. Maybe if the General Assembly would send some money Western's way, campus police would have enough staff to deal with such a requirement.

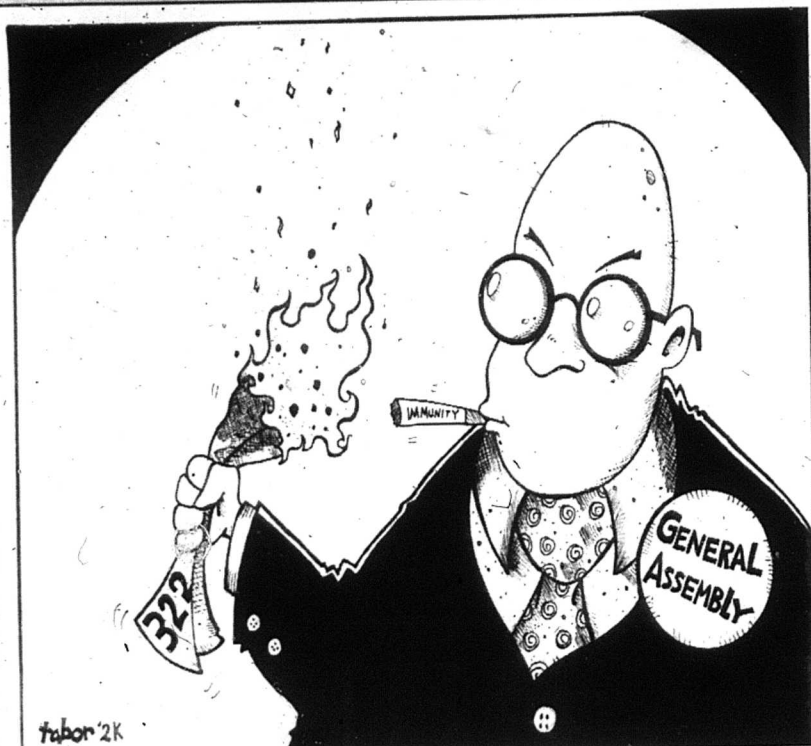
For example, if Gail Minger had known there had been an arson attempt in her son's dorm just five days earlier, she said he would have moved. A death would have been prevented.

Shame on these public officials for putting a price on human life.

Apparently these elected officials don't think parents and students will remember being abandoned next time they go to the polls.

**The issue:** House Bill 322 was stripped of provisions to protect students.

**Our view:** State officials are cutting costs at the expense of safety.



## Students forgetting what college is all about

Western Kentucky University should change its name.

Degrees R U's oughta do.

This university, like at least some other schools in this country, has become a factory — herding students in and out like cattle with little emphasis on learning.

At least partly to blame are the students who too often forget the reason they should be here to get an education.

Take for example the journalism department.

In this field it's nearly impossible to land a job without having some form of experience. A degree just isn't enough.

Yet there were 501 majors in the journalism department in fall 1998, and the Herald didn't have enough people on staff.

I have to work on Monday nights.

Work a different night or get another job.

My fraternity/sorority keeps me too busy.

Get your freakin' priorities straight.

The journalism department is just one example of how students at Western

need to take a serious look at why they came to college.

Resume-building campus activities like the Student Government Association have to beg for members while the Greek system flourishes.

And then there are the classrooms.

Faculty should have no need for

attendance policies here I'm being really hypocritical. If a student is at Western to learn, that student should inherently be attending class.

The study rooms in each dorm should be full. Instead, the few people who spend time there are considered outcasts by some because they don't cram for every test and stay awake for three days to write a paper that's a week late.

The faculty are also to blame for this

situation.

If the bar was raised, the students who deserve to be here would step up. Instead, some faculty are content to accept mediocre writing or offer multiple choice tests because essays take too long to read.

It's amazing how poorly some seniors on this campus write. Even in this technological age, the ability to communicate with words is crucial for performance on the job.

The only real solution to this problem is a new standard.

Students should set higher goals. You may only need a C in that class, but why settle?

Faculty should raise their expectations. If a student can't keep up, maybe that student doesn't belong in the class or even at this university.

Employers judge Western by its graduates. So if we all work to improve our own education, this school could be respected for what it really is — an excellent institution of higher learning.

Charlie Lanter is a senior print journalist and government major from Lexington.



**Charlie Lanter**  
commentary

## What do you use Western Online for?



"For the career services."

Calvin Brooks  
Owensboro senior



"For the honors program."

Nathaniel Walker  
Nashville senior



"I have a journalism class on there."

Liz Embree  
sophomore from Old Hickory, Tenn.



"For the class schedules and career services."

David Strange  
senior from Falls Church, Va.



"To look up financial aid information."

La Tonya Moore  
Radcliff freshman

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February 24, 2000

Herald

# Western campaigns clean in comparison

Maybe racist fliers, illegal pizza parties, slander and disaffiliations aren't that bad after all.

Methods for winning the elections of Student Government Association officials were at an all-time low last year, with candidates dragging each other, and, in turn, the organization, through the mud. The dirty election was ripped by the Herald, but when you look at it in perspective, SGA doesn't come off that bad.

Sure, having mom buy potential voters pizza, putting up fliers where you're not allowed to, sending out fliers with racist messages and so on may not be very professional and should certainly not be condoned (although I did find it rather amusing), but we need to keep one thing in mind: things could have been worse.

An article in this week's Newsweek highlights a national trend among student organizations at universities to, in attempts to look like real politicians, go to extreme lengths to sling as much mud and win as many votes as possible.

Here are some comparisons to show why Western students should not complain about dirty campaigns:

At Western: An anonymous person distributed fliers in most dorms urging people to "Vote for Will Jones in racism." (Jones was the only minority candidate for president.)

At UCLA: An unknown person claiming to be one of the candidates, who was a minority, sent an e-mail to all fraternities on campus bashing the Greek system, saying "Go ahead and have your frat parties while raping women. Your system of oppression, sexism, homophobia and racism will never survive." The writer of the e-mail was never caught.

At Western: Will Jones got in trouble when his mother distributed free pizza in a dorm to win votes for her son.

At Portland State: The SGA President was impeached for bribery charges but was not convicted. In the next election, however, things turned even uglier. Two members of the election commit-



News & Notes  
Mattias Karén

tee had their cars vandalized, and one candidate had to receive counseling after having a mental breakdown. When the election was finally over, one candidate demanded a recount of the 12,000 votes (Western wouldn't see a 12th of that turnout if there was free pizza served at the ballot tables).

At Duke: In 1998, some fraternities offered cash incentives for students to vote for their favorite candidate. Last year, about 500 extra ballots somehow appeared in the voting boxes.

At Western: Joe Mathis' win

for vice president of finance was thrown out because he distributed fliers where he was not allowed to and exceeded the \$400 spending limit.

At Harvard: One candidate received free pins from the university's gay-rights organization, which he made into campaign buttons. After he won the election, he was impeached for violating campaign spending codes by not counting the value of the pins into his spending.

These are apparently only a few of many examples of campus campaigns resembling a World Wrestling Federation pay-per-view event. It seems this year's candidates here at Western are really going to have to exercise their gray cells to come up with anything dirty enough to make any noise.

## Languages can't be taught online

On a different note, I'm really digging the Council on Postsecondary Education's idea that students should learn foreign languages via Internet courses.

Uh, tell me again how a computer can teach someone how to speak Spanish or French? I'm sure people can learn grammar and vocabulary that way, but isn't pronunciation of words pretty important, too?

The Kentucky Commonwealth Virtual University already teaches foreign languages online, where tapes are sent back and forth to teach correct pronunciations. But how can teachers grade their students on this when they can't hear them talk? Are they supposed to record their voices and send them to the teacher? The students could just have someone else record it for them, and no one would ever know.

Yup, it's a brilliant idea, and it was born when the CPE decided universities should scrap programs that don't graduate enough students, including programs like foreign languages. It seems the CPE has misunderstood Gov. Paul Patton's motto that Kentucky is the state where "education pays." That doesn't mean it's supposed to pay the state's bills.

# Coates to push evaluations

## SGA proposal up for Faculty Senate vote

By REX HALL JR.,  
Herald reporter

An attempt by the Student Government Association to make faculty evaluations available to students is coming closer to reality.

SGA President Amanda Coates said the organization is planning to compile five to 15 questions or statements that will be added to the current evaluations. Answers to these questions will be the only ones students will be allowed to view, she said.

Coates will pitch the idea to the executive committee of the Faculty Senate in two weeks to get members' feedback and make any last minute changes.

The full senate will meet March 23 to vote on the proposal. Coates said the questions to be voted on have not been finalized. "This is preliminary," she said. "Nothing is set in stone. We are going to work with the Faculty Senate at this point to get their feedback about each question to fine tune the evaluations."

Coates said if the senate does

not support the new evaluations, SGA will seek an opinion from the Attorney General as to whether current evaluations would be subject to an open records request. If so, SGA would file a request and make evaluations available on their Web site.

Coates, Faculty Senate Chairman Ed Wolfe and President Gary Ransdell met Tuesday to discuss what needs of students and faculty should be met.

Wolfe said he supports making evaluations available to students.

"I'm a finance professor and what I believe is people make better decisions if they are informed decisions," he said. "Which is to say that people are always better off with more information, rather than less information."

Ransdell said he would not comment on Tuesday's meeting, but said he is happy that students and faculty are cooperating.

"I am glad they are working together on this," Ransdell said. Originally, SGA planned to post the evaluations on the organization's Web site. But Coates said Tuesday it would be a better idea for the university to put them on Western Online, where students could use their social security number and PAC to get

the information.

"That just seems like the most appropriate place to me," Coates said.

Wolfe said he has received mixed feedback from other faculty, but that most have been supportive of the idea in varying degrees.

"It's an issue that some faculty have some very strong feelings on. If we come to a meeting of minds on this, then I would assume that there would not be an open records request by SGA."

He said similar requests have been made at universities across the country, with results going both ways in different states.

"Open records requests have been won and lost, so it's hard to know how it would go in this state if that were the case," he said.

Whenever the evaluations are shown to students, Coates said she hopes they will be administered and recorded by the university so that there will be a "lesser margin of error and make the evaluations more dependable for students."

The collection of data would probably be done by Institutional Research. Then, Ransdell said, "anything done with the data is up to Ed and Amanda."

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Seagle Pizza, Inc., a twenty-one-store Domino's franchise in Southcentral Ky. and Southern Indiana, is now accepting applications for the position of Spring '00 Marketing Assistant:

The ideal candidate is a sharp, ambitious student interested in a career in marketing, advertising or other related field. Macintosh computer experience is a plus.

Requires approximately 15 hours per week (preferably afternoons).

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EOE

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**Bulletin Board**

- Welcome back to Western Neely Ann!
- Congratulations to Shannon Jackson on Jester of the court at the Coming Home Game!
- Professor of the month: Lou Turley
- Thanks to Ann Green for representing us in Sig Ep Queen of Hearts pageant.
- Congratulations to our Rosebowl Bowlers on getting First Place!
- Thanks to Dan Gilbert for representing us so well on Coming Home Court by placing first runner up.
- Thanks to Sigma Chi for a great mixer!
- Congratulations to Kelly Bright, Sarah Merman and Heather Hagan on their Phi Delta Theta Little Sisters Bids.
- Congratulations to Cali Koerner on her pearling.
- Alumna of the month: Jolene Youngster and Neely Ann Shuecraft.

# Boulevard improvements to make crosswalks safer

By ABBEY BROWN  
Herald reporter

After a two-month delay because of late brick delivery and cold weather, the project to make University Boulevard safer for pedestrians is almost complete.

The project was originally to be completed near the end of December but will not be finished until students return from Spring Break, said Ed West, director of Construction Management Services.

Once completed, fencing will prohibit people from crossing the street anywhere but at the crosswalks, which the university hopes would prevent more tragedies on the four-lane road. Nine students have been hit there since 1992.

The purpose of this project is to force students to use the crosswalk," Sanders said. "We are concerned about student safety."

The project includes putting up about 30-35 small brick columns topped with lighted white cast stone caps, said Tim Sanders, the Construction Management project manager. Those columns will be connected with iron fencing forcing students to the three crosswalk plazas.

There are also six large columns to give the project a gateway look," Sanders said.

"We hope this project will help to improve the aesthetic of Western's campus," Sanders said.

The plazas will be located at the Jones-Jagers crosswalk, Big Red Way intersection and Normal Drive intersection. They will be complete with landscaping and a brick walkway, Sanders said.

The Department of Transportation has already installed three crosswalk signals at each of the crosswalks that will become fully functional once construction is complete.

West said the brick shortage was mostly because of a large amount of construction in the area at the time.

The brick arrived around the second week of February, but Sanders said the cold caused an even longer delay.

"We can't do masonry in the cold weather," Sanders said. "It just doesn't work."

The cold weather also caused some problems with the landscaping, Sanders said, and there is a lot of mowing and cleanup needed. More landscaping will be done in the spring to repair damages from the winter weather.

"We hope to finish up fairly quickly," Sanders said. "Other than the delay in getting brick, the project has gone pretty smoothly."



Jeremy Lyverse/Herald

Workers begin placing brick around concrete posts Wednesday afternoon along University Boulevard. Once the posts are completed, wrought-iron fence will be placed between the posts to help guide students to crosswalks.

## MONEY: New theft reports released

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

"The (Housing and Residence Life) department initiated the initial investigation; it is inappropriate for me to comment on particulars," Kuster said. "As RHA started looking through their records, they found (the other thefts)."

Last May, \$2,340 was stolen when a check bounced from the National Association of College and University Residence Halls.

The money was reported missing on Feb. 13, but the report wasn't released to the public until earlier this week. On Feb. 3, \$97 was stolen

from the "Battle of the Bands," a function sponsored by the department of Housing and Residence Life.

The money was expected to be donated to Camp Heartland for children with HIV/AIDS.

This follows a Feb. 8 report that \$519 was stolen from Housing and Residence Life.

## News Briefs

### E-mail server to be down this weekend

The faculty and staff e-mail server, fmail.wku.edu, will be unavailable between 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday afternoon, for required software and hardware maintenance.

Faculty and staff will not be able to access their accounts during that time, and any e-mail that is sent to the system will be held for delivery until the server is back up, according to an e-mail sent out by Western's E-mail Postmaster.

—Mattias Karén

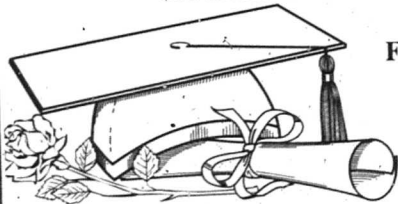
[herald.wku.edu](http://herald.wku.edu)

## Graduation Fair for Spring Commencement

**WKU May/August Graduating Students must be sized for cap and gown!**

- \* Confirm eligibility to participate in Spring Commencement.
- \* WKU class rings can be ordered with special discounts.
- \* Order graduation announcements and accessories.
- \* Career Services provides job search information.

Door Prizes: WKU 10k Ring (1); WKU "Memorabilia" Print; Announcements (1pkg).  
\$25 Bookstore Gift Certificates (Daily Drawing)



Feb. 28 - Mar. 3 DUC Mezzanine, Mon. - Fri.: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Feb. 28, Glasgow Campus 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Feb. 29, Owensboro Campus 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Mar. 1, DUC Mezzanine, 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
Mar. 2, ECC Campus 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. ET

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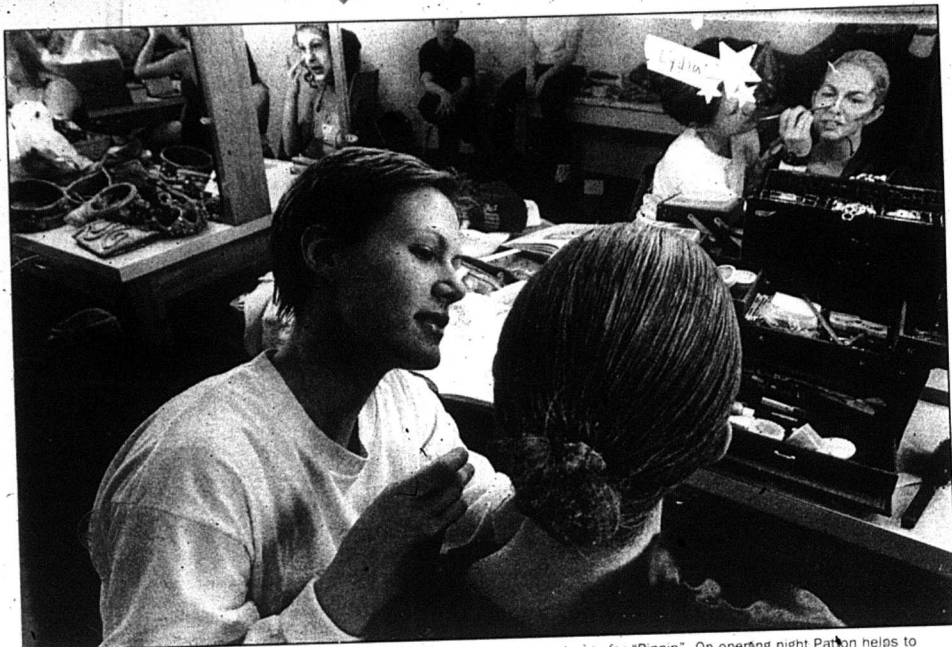
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# diversions



Bowling Green junior Danielle Patton, a theatre major, is the head of makeup design for "Pippin". On opening night Patton helps to transform Lydia Meadows, a freshman theater major from Chattanooga, Tenn., into her 66-year-old character, Berthe.

## Behind the Scenes



STORY BY LINH TRAN ♦ PHOTOS BY WENDI THOMPSON

On a silent practiced feet, Frankfort sophomore Rick Upchurch scurries through the fine art center's Russell Miller Theatre trying to find the right balance of stage sound for a final rehearsal.

"This is one of the largest productions Western has put on in a couple of years," Upchurch said. "I can feel the pressure."

The theater and dance department, along with the music department, will present the Bob Fosse musical comedy "Pippin" through Sunday.

"Pippin" is about a young prince who searches for "complete fulfillment" by trying many different things — becoming a soldier, ruling his country and falling in love. His ventures usually end in failure, but he finds time to occasionally burst into song.

The show opened last Tuesday after months of preparation. The cast was finalized before the winter break, and rehearsals started right after New Year's.

Western puts on a musical only once every other year. Assistant music professor

Robert Pope, who has been at Western since August, has worked many hours training featured soloists and the pit band.

The show's musical score is modern, comprised of keyboards, electric bass guitar, electronic drums and an acoustic guitar which Pope plays.

"Pippin" has 70s type rock and showbiz theater aspects to it," he said. "It's entertaining."

While the audience's attention is focused on a spectacular musical with lively dancers and actors, a lot of foot-

work is going on backstage.

Though the audience will probably never see him, as stage manager Upchurch has a major "role" in the play. He coordinates many aspects of the show like props, cues for the performers, lighting and costumes changes.

"I'm in the booth calling everything that happens onstage," he said. "A stage manager cannot lose their control. Actors can get flustered on stage, but a



Louisville sophomore Regan Kays, left, and Lea Kohl, a sophomore from Guntersville, Ala., do crunches to prepare for Tuesday night's opening performance.

SEE PIPPIN, PAGE 10

## They've been looking for love in all the wrong places



**SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK**  
Matt Batchelor

Cupid came in the dead of night for six lucky couples.

Two Thursdays ago, New Rock 92's the Puckmeister and I hovered over the WWHR microphone, announcing the 12 lucky names who were hooked up with a dinner at O'Charley's Valentine's week with the possibility of something more.

Puck and I were curious; does

love at first sight work? Do you really need to know somebody through blind infatuation before moving to first base?

The results were inconclusive. Here is the story of two of those dates.

**Date No. 1: Harrodsburg junior Erin Milburn and Bowling Green sophomore Ed Pulley**  
"I've really never done anything like it before," said Milburn, 21.

So Milburn and her date, Ed Pulley, 26, decided to go all out. After meeting Sunday night via telephone, the couple who had never been on a blind date decided to go for the full blind date experience — by actually meeting at O'Charley's on Valentine's Day night.

They had no idea the wait would be 45 minutes.

"I meet this guy I don't know anything about, and then I have to wait 45 minutes," said Milburn. Pulley actually made reservations ahead of time. Such is Valentine's Day.

Both said they were a little nervous ahead of time.

But after dinner arrived (chicken teriyaki for Milburn, chicken and rice for Pulley), the date began to smooth out. As a bonus, drinks were on the house. That didn't hurt things, Milburn says.

Milburn described Pulley as "personable, pretty sincere and genuine... easy going."

As for Pulley's description, "I guess I would say 'relieved'... A very attractive, intelligent young lady."

The conversation shifted from school, personal life, majors in school and goals in life.

So would they do it again?

"No," Milburn emphatically says. "I'm not big on that awkward situation."

Milburn explains, "I was not some desperate person going on a date."

Instead, she said, she went on the advice of friends. She says that just strongly desiring to go on a date isn't enough; it takes getting to know the right person.

Pulley went on the date under the pressure of friends, too. But he says he wouldn't mind doing it again.

"It was kind of cool."

**Date No. 2: Bowling Green junior Rich Smith and...**

Rich Smith had a very different first impression of his date. "I've never been contacted," the Bowling Green junior says.

Schoolhouse Rock can con-

firm that his date did pick up the ticket, though. Naughty, naughty! We won't give out the name though, in the hope that his blind date partner might arrange a late Valentine's date.

Smith, 20, isn't upset. He's been on a blind date before, with a girl matched to the physical characteristics of his ideal woman. After a couple of dates, though, Smith says he learned that "appearance isn't everything."

He would even consider another. "Yeah. Blind dates are actually kind of fun."

Now, ladies, Smith sounds like a heel of a guy. So whoever you are that stood him up, give this guy a chance.

I'm also interested in hearing from some of the rest of you that went on the blind date. Drop me a line at [batchme@uakku.edu](mailto:batchme@uakku.edu).

SEE SCHOOLHOUSE, PAGE 10



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# 'Boiler Room' is welcome relief in slow season

Grade: A-

By MICHAEL COMPTON  
Herald reporter

While it can be argued that "Boiler Room" is more style than substance, you can't help but get sucked in by the energy level of first-time writer/director Ben Younger.

Backed by a pulsating soundtrack and a narrative that would seem more suitable for an urban drama, the movie takes us inside the financial "boiler rooms" — Wall Street slang for small, shady brokerages that

take advantage of unsuspecting investors.

Giovanni Ribisi, who desperately needed decent work after last year's dreadful pair of flicks "The Other Sister" and "The Mod Squad," plays Seth. As the movie begins Seth has dropped out of college and is making a living running a casino out of his apartment by a friend.

Seth is recruited by a friend and decides to take the job to please his overly critical father, who also happens to be a federal judge.

The job turns out to be more illegal than the casino. Seth learns that behind all the firm's promises of instant cash is a large scheme that is basi-

cally nothing more than a chop shop, fueled by offering perspective clients the get rich, quick dream. Burdened with this knowledge, Seth struggles to decide if the glitz of the job is worth the strain of an already tedious father-son relationship.

Younger gets credit for not only using a previously successful formula, but actually acknowledging his sources. You can't help but chuckle when Seth goes to a party where all the guys are watching "Wall Street" and reciting it verbatim.

Younger does a great job with the script here, because it emphasizes even more how

much these characters want to be part of the real stock world, yet at the same time how disillusioned they all are by the glamour of Hollywood's portrayal of Wall Street.

The cast keeps the interest level at a fever pitch. Ribisi manages to be convincing at being both naive yet smart enough to catch on to exactly what is going on around him. Nia Long is solid as has love interest.

Ron Rifkin is first-rate as Seth's father. Some of the movie's best scenes involve the relationship and how overbearing Seth's father has been.

But it is Ben Affleck who gets the standout role. As the

firm's recruitment advisor, Affleck gets a lot out of very little screen time. Whether it's the initial interview or some midway pow wows for the interns, Affleck is given the kind of dialogue that actors dream about. His pitch is so effective you can't help but get sucked into what he's saying.

"Boiler Room" may not be a classic, but in a generally slow movie season, it's the kind of movie that is a welcome relief from such unimaginative films like "Scream 3" and "Eye of the Beholder."

Like "Fight Club," it is the kind of movie that has so much fun with itself, you can't help but have fun, too.

## CERES: Not your ordinary sorority

By ERICA WALSH  
Herald reporter

Sarah Hall got more than she ever expected when she joined a sorority.

The Owensboro sophomore is a member of Ceres, the only social and professional sorority on campus.

"It was like stepping into an instant circle of 20 friends," she said. "It's exactly what I wanted."

Ceres is one of a kind for many different reasons. They boast only 21 members. They have some of the highest grade point averages on campus, probably because they require the highest grades of any sorority at Western.

They are also the only sorority on campus without a Greek name. Ceres was the Roman goddess of harvest and plenty, and a lot of the girls are associated with agriculture.

But that's not a problem for Ceres members. They are proud to be different.

"People do know we're different, and there are always stereotypes that come along with being an ag. girl, but it's not like they look down on us," Hall said. "Its those differences that make us so unique."

Ceres has come a long way from the start. They began in 1984 as sort of a little sister organization of Farmhouse. As the idea became more well known both nationally and internationally, they broke off into their own organization. They are ag-oriented, but that's not required to be involved in Ceres.

"We have all types of majors. Education majors, accounting majors, everything you could imagine," Hall said.

And they are always looking for new members.

"We're one of few sororities that have an open rush," Monticello junior Ange McGinnis, president of Ceres, said. "Girls can join anytime."

McGinnis hopes to get Ceres up to between 50 and 60 members. They are trying to grow, but they're doing it a little at a time.

"I think part of the reason we are small is because not a lot of people know about us or our rush," McGinnis said.

Like other social sororities on campus, Ceres has weekly meetings. They have many sisterhood functions. They have formal and retreats. They go bowling, play laser tag and just hang out with each other. They are a family.

"We're a pretty close-knit group of girls," Hall said.

Ceres is also extremely active in their philanthropy, which is organizations that fight breast and cervical cancer. The members raise money through fundraisers for the Kentucky Cancer Program as well as selling t-shirts and holding silent auctions. The money goes to different organizations that help their cause.

Unlike the other social sororities, they are only an associate member of the Panhellenic organization, which means they are not required to participate in all the Greek events. They get to pick and choose.

This year, they chose Greek Week.

"This is the first year we are participating fully in it," Hall said. "We're really psyched."

Getting more involved has been a goal of McGinnis' since she rushed Ceres. When she first became involved in Ceres, it had more of a club atmosphere. This is her third semester as president, and it has grown a lot under her watch.

"I'm starting to see us do a lot more, and that's what I wanted," she said. "We're getting there."

## MADAME MOONBEAM'S PREDICTIONS

**ARIES**  
(Mar. 21-April 20)  
Though they don't know it yet, you just found out someone you trust has betrayed you. You're caught between your desire to keep your friendship with them and the overwhelming need for vengeance. Wait a while for your anger to subside before deciding how to handle this person.

**TAURUS**  
(Apr. 21-May 21)  
Your stubborn refusal to admit you may be wrong is working against you. Rather than convincing those around you that you're right, you're just proving your incredible pig-headedness.

**GEMINI**  
(May 22-June 21)  
Don't be wishy-washy on decisions you make this week. If you make a choice, stick with it. Don't waste your time waffling back and forth. It will only lead to confusion and a great big stress headache.

**CANCER**  
(June 22-July 22)  
You may be feeling out of place and a little paranoid. Remember that despite your feelings of isolation, not everyone is out to get you. Most people probably think you're pretty pleasant to be around, if you would just stop talking back to the voices in your head.

**LEO**  
(July 23-Aug. 22)  
Travel to an exotic locale, even if it's just across the street. You're surrounded by meaningful and strange experiences if you will open yourself up to new things. Look for the adventures around you. They don't require booster shots.

**VIRGO**  
(Aug. 23-Sept. 23)  
You're in desperate need of motivation when it comes to school. Think of Spring Break. If you push your butt between now and March, you won't have to spend your vacation dreading the abyssmal academic situation you're coming back to.

**LIBRA**  
(Sept. 24-Oct. 23)  
The warm weather can have a profound influence on you if you let it. Get in touch with mother nature. Go outside and just sit. Don't think about anything. Don't take anything to read or music to listen to. Clear your head of winter debris like frustration and boredom.

**SCORPIO**  
(Oct. 24-Nov. 22)  
Though you were hopeful, things with a roommate or close friend haven't improved this semester. It's too late to get out now, so the best thing you can do is ignore their little quirks — from the constant toenail clipping to stealing your food. Trying to change them will only drive you insane.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
(Nov. 23-Dec. 21)  
Love is in the air. Your belated Valentine could be heading your way. Don't force it. You may change what Fate has in store for you. Relax. Be your charming self and your true love will come to you.

**CAPRICORN**  
(Dec. 22-Jan. 20)  
Due to past "slight exaggerations" (or bold-faced lies), someone may be having a hard time trusting you. You're going to have to prove your mettle. It's probably going to involve some sort of grand gesture on your part, so be prepared to grovel.

**AQUARIUS**  
(Jan. 21-Feb. 19)  
A parent or long-distance loved one is feeling a little neglected. You may have inadvertently ignored them over the past weeks while mired in the throes of schoolwork. Give them a call or write them a note. Otherwise you might be left out of the will.

**PISCES**  
(Feb. 20-Mar. 20)  
A new hobby may be slow to start, but you should persevere. If you keep pressing, you may end up with a whole new skill, give up, and all you'll have is an excuse to quit early the next time things get rough. And a \$200 pair of Rollerblades you'll never want to see again.

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WET T-SHIRT CONTEST!

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"In-the-Biz" Night

Free party for Restaurants & Businesses  
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#### WEDNESDAY

the one and only BRENNAN GRAVES  
9 p.m. - 1:30 a.m.

\$2 Bud and Bud Light Longnecks

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#### THURSDAY

KARAOKE NIGHT  
(nationwide contest starting soon!)

#### FRIDAY

TBA - ALWAYS A BAND

#### SATURDAY

TBA - ALWAYS A BAND

#### SUNDAY

DJ, \$4 pitchers  
25¢ chicken wings

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NO COVER  
IF YOU SHOW  
GREEK LETTERS  
AT THE DOOR





## First Ladies

A new team is born on the Hill



H. Rick Mach/Herald

Freshman infielder Brandy Hawkins beats Evansville senior infielder Lisa Roberts to base for the out after catching a hit for a double play during yesterday's doubleheader.

## Lady Tops off to bumpy start

Western begins legacy with loss, tie

By Joe Cox  
Herald reporter

Say what you want about the Lady Toppers softball team.

Just don't say they ever quit.

After numerous festivities yesterday at their new on-campus field, the Lady Toppers (0-1-1) worked overtime, in their first games ever, against the Evansville Purple Aces (5-1-1) for a shot at their first win.

After losing the opening game 2-0, the second game of the doubleheader was called as a 2-2 tie after nine innings because of darkness.

"I don't like a tie as much

as they don't like a tie, but it's better than a loss," Lady Toppers coach Leslie Phelan said. "It was nice to get that first game over with, put it behind us, and people didn't have as much of a reason to be nervous."

The Purple Aces won the first game by capitalizing on five Western errors to score their two runs. Evansville also got a stellar performance from pitcher Maggie Ross, a junior, struck out six Lady Toppers and surrendered only five hits in shutting Western out.

"As long as we get the win, I don't care how I throw," Ross said, adding that Western "had some pretty good hitters."

Ross also said that she thinks Evansville is in a bit of a slump as the Purple Aces "haven't hit the ball well in the last two games."

Evansville managed only



Andrew Otto/Herald

Junior catcher Cassie Palmer is congratulated after a two-run homer in the bottom of the seventh.

six hits off Western's first-game starting pitcher, Katie Swertfager.

Both runs scored off Swertfager were unearned —

Purple Ace Haven Shank scored in the third inning on an error by Cassie Palmer.

SEE START, PAGE 13

## Baseball Tops fall in Cards' house, 6-4

Western drops to 3-4 overall

By Brian Moore  
Herald reporter

LOUISVILLE — The Louisville skyline shaped the landscape in the distance from Cardinal Stadium, an impression of a big city hosting a big baseball game.

But from inside the 38,000-seat stadium, it seemed more like a quiet, nearly deserted, back woods baseball field in Eastern Kentucky. A crowd of 256 dotted the color-coded seats, not enough to make even a light rumble.

There wasn't much rumbling going on at the plate, either, as Western managed only six hits in losing 6-4 to Louisville.

Western compiled four one-run innings to post their total, while Louisville (1-4) used three two-run innings to defeat the Hilltoppers (3-4) and pick up their first win of the season.

It wasn't quite the outcome Louisville junior Matt Fox had in mind for his homecoming. Being watched by his parents, grandparents, girlfriend and some friends from his hometown, Fox, a product of Pleasure Ridge Park High School, went one for three at the plate but drove in half of Western's runs.

"I got pumped up coming back to play here," Fox said. "I've got a lot of friends on the team, and it kind of gets the adrenaline flowing a little more. I look forward to coming back here, but I wish we could have come away with a W."

Five Louisville players went to Pleasure Ridge Park, three of whom Fox played with. One of those former teammates, Louisville senior Troy Hilpp, buried the Toppers for good in the bottom of the seventh inning.

After three Cardinals walked to load the bases, Hilpp ripped a double to the right-center field wall, scoring two and breaking a 4-4 tie. Western manufactured runs mainly off walks and two Louisville errors. In the second

SEE TOPS, PAGE 13

## Marshall will have two memorable days after Saturday's game

Tom Marshall will never forget the day he stepped away from the game he had adored since age 5.

He can't forget that day, when he stepped down as the NBA Cincinnati Royals coach.

March 9, 1960.

Forgetting would be a cardinal sin, an unthinkable.

"Better get this right now, because my wife and I got married that afternoon, and I coached my last game that night, so I can't forget that date," Marshall said.

Western's first consensus basketball All-American will likely

always remember Feb. 26, 2000. On Saturday, his will be the final jersey retired in Diddle Arena this season. Marshall, now retired and living with that same wife, Betty, in Ft. Myers, Fla., will remember this night for more than the unveiling.

He hasn't been back on the Hill since 1956. He hasn't seen or stepped foot in the arena named after his coach. He didn't make the trip when he was inducted into Western's Hall of Fame — it's just too long of a drive. And Marshall vowed when he was through with basketball — March



OUT OF BOUNDS  
Travis Mayo

9, 1960 — that he wouldn't fly again.

But this time, Marshall and his

wife are enduring the highway — all 1,000 miles — even if it meant leaving early Wednesday morning.

He went from an outdoor court, a clay surface, as a 5 year old, to a dominant college player. During his hoops life at Western, Marshall was part of what many call the school's greatest teams. The proof is in the digits: 99 wins from 1950 to 1954 and only 24 losses; 80-14 with Marshall starting; two Ohio Valley Conference championships and three NIT appearances.

Remember, that was the big

one, then.

"The only thing I didn't really like about it was we always wanted to win the big one for Mr. Diddle, and we never did," Marshall said. "We came close. I feel sorry because he thought we were gonna do it and we didn't. We tried, but just didn't get over the hump. That was a big, big disappointment to me."

There were no disappointments in his school records that numbered like a roster. Six haven't been eclipsed, including

SEE BOUNDS, PAGE 16



# Lady Tops like to shop around

Western plays today  
at Ark.-Little Rock

By LINDSAY SUTTON  
Herald reporter

It's conceivable that Bowling Green's economy is maintained by self-proclaimed shopaholics Jamie Britt and ShaRae Mansfield.

Both starters for the women's basketball team, the two can't stay away from the Greenwood Mall and other stores in Bowling Green or in any town they visit on away game trips.

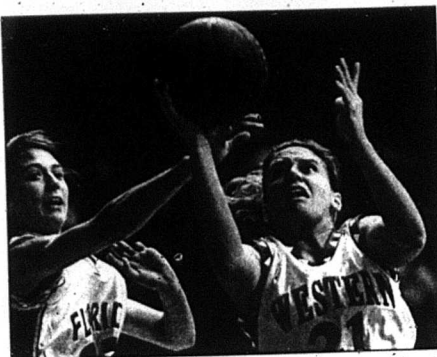
"So long as there's a vendor hocking clothing in Little Rock, Ark., where Western plays at 7:05 tonight, Britt and Mansfield will, uh, fit right in."

Britt, a senior forward, said the Lady Toppers are always looking for different stores and even shop on game days.

"Our new ritual is to find a store somewhere to shop game day," said Mansfield, a junior forward and All-America candidate.

"We had a ball in New Orleans," Britt said. "Like in New Orleans, our hotel was downtown. We had all those shops on game day to go to."

Shopping on game trips breaks up the monotony of eating, sleeping and practicing for Western (17-8, 11-3 Sun Belt Conference), a team that has played in seven other states this season. A rigorous schedule has taken the Lady Toppers from as nearby as Lexington to



Jeremy Lyverse/Herald

Western guard Jamie Walz goes for a layup in the second half of their Sun Belt Conference game against Fla. International on Feb. 5.

as far away as Denver and Eugene, Ore.

Getting to these places, though, is a tedious task. The best way to get from Bowling Green to a destination isn't a straight line. It's more like a maze of intersecting, overlapping and unconventional routes.

"It's like every place we go, there's no easy way to get there," Britt said. "We have to drive to Nashville every time we catch a flight. And then we have to get two or three connections. And then drive an hour to get there."

But they still find adequate time to discover shopping opportunities, and their trip to Little Rock to take on the Lady Trojans (1-12, 4-19) will be no different,

even though Britt and Mansfield haven't been there before.

Originally, Western was going to take a flight from Louisville yesterday to somewhere outside of Little Rock and then drive the rest of the distance. Instead, the Lady Toppers opted to charter a bus for the five-hour drive to save time.

To save time for apparel hunting, that is. Sure, practice and rest are important, but shopping is a break from the ordinary and makes the travel experience a little more enjoyable.

"Me and ShaRae, we get into going out and going to clubs, so we look for the little bitty, small clothes," Britt explained.

Mansfield laughed. "Yeah, small clothes."

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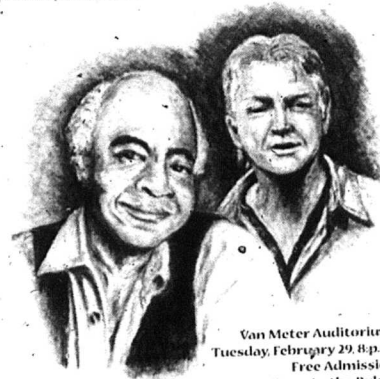
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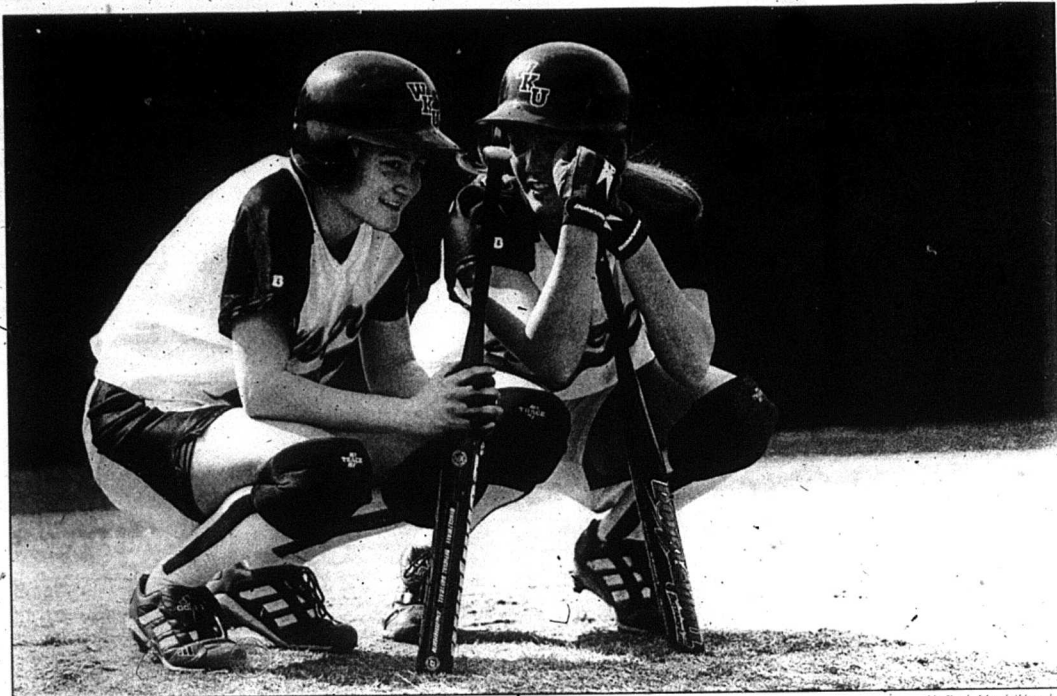
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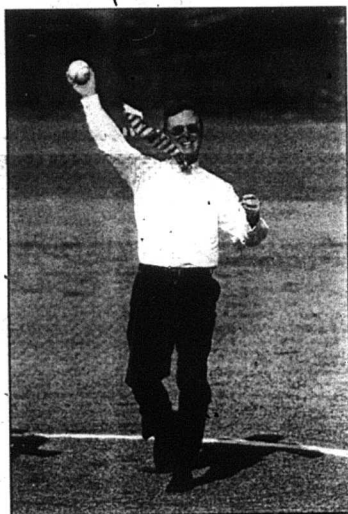
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COME . . . ENCOUNTER THE FORCE THAT TRANSCENDS THE AGES.



H. Rick Mach/Herald

Junior infielder Angela Dunhour and freshman pitcher Kristalyn Smith talk between innings of the first game during yesterday's doubleheader.



H. Rick Mach/Herald



Jeremy Lyverse/Herald

Before the opening ceremony Head Coach Leslie Phelan gives last minute instructions to junior outfielder Laura King, left, and freshman pitcher Kristalyn Smith before their inaugural game Wednesday afternoon.

Left: President Gary Ransdell delivers one of the first pitches during yesterday's pre-game ceremony at the WKU Softball Field.

## START: Team finishes 0-1-1

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

and Nicole Chatman added the other run an inning later on an error by Angela Dunhour.

"I was just trying to keep my composure and stay in one state of mind," Swertfager said.

Despite the errors, Evansville could manage no more than two runs. The Purple Aces stranded nine runners in the first game as Swertfager worked her way out of several jams.

In the second game, pitchers Amber Garlington of Western and Lissa Conn of Evansville locked up in a duel which threatened to last all night.

Garlington pitched all nine innings and did not allow a single base runner until the sixth inning in her collegiate debut.

"I was worried," she said. "But I had confidence in myself. I think we did a great job, but we have a lot to work on."

With two out in the top of the seventh,

Chatman capitalized on a rare Garlington mistake, lining a triple into the left-center field gap which accounted for both Evansville runs.

Facing another loss, Western answered in the bottom of the inning with a double by Sara Alanis and a dramatic game-tying home run off the bat of Cassie Palmer. The game continued for two extra innings, but neither team could score and the game was called.

"I was just looking for a base hit," Palmer said of her homer. "I just happened to get all of that one."

She also complemented the pitching staff and said she hoped the game showed other teams that "not many people ... can come into our house and knock us down."

Outfielder Laura King, who had four hits in the doubleheader, was also pleased with the effort from the Lady Toppers, who will prepare to host a 1 p.m. doubleheader Saturday against state rival Eastern Kentucky.

"I think we just over focused — it was just too dramatic," she said.

## FIRST: Tops excite fans

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

"From the day she (Shanon) was walking, she had a glove in her hand," Doug said. "Other girls carried dolls, she carried a glove."

Madisonville sophomore Lindsay Gilmore carried a sign yesterday. It was a yellow poster made for Head, one of Gilmore's friends from last year's softball club team. Gilmore promised her friend she would be at the game and be visible. Although she didn't get out of class until an hour after the first pitch, Gilmore rushed to the game, poster ready for display.

Gilmore says now that she will make a different poster for a different player every time she can make it to a game.

"It's giving all the other girls who like fast pitch an opportunity

to play at the college level," Gilmore said. "And if we didn't have fast-pitch softball, we wouldn't have all these signs to be made."

Even though the Lady Toppers didn't score in the first game, losing 2-0, shades of perfection started rising again as the sun slowly set during the second game.

Perfection saluted as junior catcher Cassie Palmer sailed an uncatchable ball out into left field in the bottom of the seventh inning, a two-run homer that tied the game 2-2.

Perfection winked as the ball flew over the fence, put to rest for the evening, the first evening-of women's softball at Western.

"It's history in the making," Gina said. "That's pretty cool."

# Swim teams gear up for conference championships

Men, women look to top Cincinnati

By BRETT CORBIN  
Herald reporter

The tournament is an intense, pressure-packed six meet, aquatic festival of endurance. And Boca Raton, Fla. is the backdrop.

Cincinnati is favored to win Western's three-day showdown against a packed field in the National Independent Championships, and another tough opponent will be Oakland out of Michigan.

For the past week and a half, Western has been practicing less and less in hopes of coming out strong and fresh.

Every one of us knows what we have to do and we are going there to do it," senior Kicker Vencill said. "We treat this meet like all the rest to go out and swim our best. The time for yelling is over."

The team traveled to Florida Tuesday morning and had a meet and greet practice last night in the competition pool. In this first practice, the swimmers hoped to learn the pool's characteristics and adjust to the unusual outdoor setting.

Today at 10 a.m. they start a strenuous agenda that won't stop for 60 more hours.

Their first meet this morning is over at 1 p.m. and then they will eat and sleep until their second meet of the day at 6 p.m., which lasts until 10 p.m.

The next day they will go and do it again. But the Hilltoppers morale for both squads is running high.

"Everyone is being positive and no one is negative," coach Bill Powell said. "They are confident, they feel good and really



Andrew Otto/Herald

Freshman swimmer Josh Rule completes a leg of the 400 IM during a Feb. 5 meet against Ill.-Chicago at Preston Health and Activities Center.

excited about it."

The Lady Toppers are also underdogs to the Bearcats from Cincinnati and hope to move up from their sixth-place (out of eight)

finish last year. This will be only the third NIC for the women's program, which has seen improvement and success come furiously.

"As a team we would like to

finish in the top three," sophomore Sydney Mountford said.

In last year's NIC's the men finished second after coming from behind on the last day.

"Our goal as a team is to go and continue the success we have had all season," junior Andrew Priest said. "We are really shooting at Cincinnati."

## College Heights Herald

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February 24, 2000

# Hilltoppers hope to end string of close games

By Travis Mayo  
Herald reporter

If all of Western's men's basketball's setbacks and missed opportunities were on a single sheet of paper, Dennis Felton would probably have a field day getting rid of it. He'd probably wad it up, leap from his office chair, bounce the paper ball, fake to the right, pivot to the left and toss in a short jumper — a three for wastebasket hoops.

But the game isn't that easy. The Hilltoppers (8-16, 6-7 Sun Belt Conference) have clawed in close games all season long. Some have been claimed by victory; others have fallen to defeat. Eight of Western's 16 losses have been decided by nine points or fewer. That happened last month

at Arkansas State, when the Indians held off a Hilltopper surge and won 77-70.

Tonight's 7 p.m. near-the-end matchup at Diddle Arena has even larger implications. Both teams are jumbled in the jungle that is the middle of the conference standings. The Indians (10-15, 7-7) are tied for fourth, with Western breathing down their neck, just a game out.

"That's gonna be a nice one," sophomore guard Tremain Rowles said, "we owe them one." Completing the paycheck could largely depend on shutting down, or at least somewhat shutting down, senior guard Chico Fletcher. If he were a household product, he'd be the biggest dish in the kitchen, a platter.

Fletcher finished last season

as the nation's second-best dish man, tossing an average eight assists among defenders. He's on pace to equal that mark. Fletcher is handing teammates 8.3 assists per game — tied for third in the nation. And he has some elite company. North Carolina guard Ed Cota is among those tied; Oklahoma State guard Doug Gottlieb's 8.8 assist average is tops.

Fletcher's 208 assists is followed by freshman guard Odie Williams' 47, not a close contest by any means. He showed his skills against Western with a 20-point, 10-assist outing.

But Western sophomore guard Derek Robinson isn't intimidated. He hasn't had much time guarding Fletcher, more fuel for the fire of tonight's test. When

asked about the challenge, Robinson smiles for the remainder of the conversation.

"I'm looking forward to stopping him," he said. "It's gonna take a whole lot to do it, but whatever it takes."

Most Hilltoppers know it will take the same kind of game they played Monday night, when they controlled most of the game against New Orleans and headbanded their way to a 76-63 win. Western cleaned up the glass then, toned down the turnovers then, and for all but 10 minutes responded well to Privateer pressure. The Hilltoppers will have to do the same tonight.

Arkansas State possesses pressure that Felton thinks will have to be busted to make that

jump in the standings. That, and then some.

"We've gotta be ready to battle," Felton said.

On a night when Western will honor Hilltopper legend Jim Pickens, the Hilltoppers want to lift the Bandit streak to two. And not only will pulling Fletcher to a halt be key, so will maintaining intensity for 40 minutes.

Plus band together. "That's what got us this win tonight," said Robinson after Monday's game. "Everybody had each other's back. If we do that again, everything will be fine."

Then maybe Felton could hit those wastebasket shots as if he were in a three-point contest, hoping one will be the money ball.

## College Heights Herald

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# BOUNDS: Jersey retiring Saturday

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

29-rebounds against Louisville in 1953. 477 boards his senior year, and 18 free throws netted in a whopping 122-78 drilling of Eastern Kentucky in 1954. When he untied his shoes after his junior season, Marshall was already Western's all-time scorer. He's still third on the list.

And as it mentioned that he played golf on two OVC championship squads. But he decided he had a better shot at playing professional ball. He did.

Marshall was the No. 1 draft pick of the Rochester Royals, then answered Uncle Sam's call and served in the Army for two years.

When he came home, he topped that one year of pro hoops with a stint for the

Rochester-turned Cincinnati Royals, was sent to the Detroit Pistons for a few games, then back to Cincy.

From player/coach to head coach to married man running Tom Marshall's Cafe across the river in Newport. With his wife, of course.

Married March 9, 1960. Can't forget that day.

But since both retired from Pittsburgh Plate Glass Industries in 1986 and moved from Huntsville, Ala. to Florida, Marshall has forged through a battle that makes basketball look like a game of horse.

He had colon cancer. Suddenly, he was praying a surgeon's knife and chemotherapy would take it away, would sweat a tumor like an opponent's defense.

operation shot at the buzzer.

"You think a lot up there when you're laying there," said Marshall, now a year and a half after the hopeful victory. "My wife helped me out a lot."

Wife since March 9, 1960. Write that down somewhere. On February 26, 2000, Marshall will fight back emotions. He gets sentimental on such nights. It's a far cry from playing on the executive golf course he lives on, Sable Springs, a course he says, with a laugh, is "just for us old timers, see."

Part of the deal was that Marshall not have to give a speech after he stares into the rafters and watches his jersey be immortalized.

He might not be able to, the trademark of an unforgettable day.

# TOPS: Purdue on deck Friday

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

inning, senior catcher Curtis Bliss doubled to start the inning. He advanced to third on a balk and was driven in by a bunt down the third baseline by Fox.

Fox also reached first on the play, but was left stranded.

Just two innings later, Fox drove in his second run of the game this time on a sacrifice fly to right field. Junior third baseman Justin Herrguth led off the inning with a walk, then stole second and advanced to third thanks to a throwing error by Louisville catcher Curtis Sapp. Junior pitcher Jeff Vance followed with a walk, setting up Fox's RBI.

"We just didn't get the job done," Fox said. "When the opportunity was at hand, we just didn't do the things that it takes to win. This team isn't better than us. We didn't get beat, we lost this game."

The Toppers were coming off Sunday's doubleheader sweep of

St. Louis, where they scored 19 runs in two games. They were able to get runners on base easily with three walks in the fourth inning and two in the seventh. Unable to produce the type of hitting with runners in the scoring position as they did Sunday, Western left nine runners on base.

"I think it was a classic example of two ballclubs that gave each other opportunities to win, and they took advantage of it better than we did," coach Joel Murrie said. "Both teams put too many people on base via walks."

There were too many gifts and I guess our guys were more generous than theirs."

Starting pitcher Brian Houdek was relieved after 2 1/3 innings and moved to second base defensively. He gave up a two-run home run in the first inning and was pulled after Hilpp and Sean Sterner singled in the second. His six-game hitting streak also came to an end, going 0-5 in the lead-off position.

"He wasn't throwing quality pitches," Murrie said. "He was behind the count. We were in a situation where we had some pitchers ready and we weren't going to allow him to pitch us into a hole."

Western defeated Belmont in Nashville 8-1 on Tuesday. Houdek went three for four batting, including the team's first home run of the season, a two-run shot. Junior Ryan Hulchison (1-1) will start against Purdue at 2 p.m. tomorrow at Deneb Field. They'll play a two-game series against Ohio on Saturday at 11:30 a.m. and Sunday at 1 p.m., also at home.

"Both of them are good ballclubs," Murrie said. "Like Louisville, if you give them an opportunity to beat you, they'll beat you. College baseball is a game where you're going to have to score runs, and four runs are not going to win many games on our schedule."

## WESTERN SPORTS SCORECARD

Team	W-L	Next
Men's basketball	8-16	Today vs. Arkansas State
Women's basketball	17-8	Today at Arkansas-Little Rock
Men's swimming	12-0	Today at NIC Championships
Women's swimming	13-0	Today at NIC Championships
Track		Sat. at Sun Belt Championships
Baseball	3-4	Tomorrow, vs. Purdue
Softball	0-1-1	Sat. vs. Eastern Kentucky

\* Track does not keep win-loss records.

## Sports Briefs

### Tennis finishes 3-1 over weekend

The men's tennis team fell one match short of perfection this past weekend, winning three out of four. One win included in-state rival Murray State, which had broken Western's 22-match win streak last season.

The team's next battle will be against the Louisville Cardinals this Sunday.

### Track team will compete this weekend

Western's track team will compete in the Sun Belt Conference Championships this weekend in Jonesboro, Ark.

The women will look to five-time Sun Belt Performer of the Week Valerie Lynch for a strong performance in the 5,000-meter run. The Ireland senior has the only time under 17 minutes in the conference this season.

On the men's side, senior Rod Smart will be a favorite in the 60-meter dash, while some impressive freshman, like Dustin Ross and Aaron Tucker, will try to make a name for themselves in the 3,000 meters and shot put.

— Travis Williams

### Sun Belt Conference Standings

**Men**  
Louisiana-Lafayette (12-2, 21-7 overall)  
La Tech (11-3, 19-6)  
South Alabama (11-3, 16-9)  
Florida International (7-7, 14-13)  
Arkansas State (7-7, 10-15)  
Western (6-7, 8-16)  
New Orleans (6-8, 10-15)  
Denver (2-13, 5-21)  
Arkansas-Little Rock (1-13, 4-21)

**Women**  
La Tech (13-0, 22-2 overall)  
Western (11-3, 17-8)  
Denver (9-3, 15-7)  
Florida International (8-6, 13-12)  
New Orleans (6-6, 10-13)  
Arkansas State (5-7, 14-9)  
Louisiana-Lafayette (5-8, 12-12)  
Arkansas-Little Rock (1-12, 4-19)  
South Alabama (0-13, 5-19)



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